Approved For Release 2004/02/10 : CIA-RDP75-00149R000500370018-1

Scheer hedged for a while when asked who controls the IUS, but finally said, "It is essentially an organ of the foreign policy of the Soviet Union."

"Look," Scheer continued, "I went to the IUS headquarters strictly for journalistic reasons. I was in Europe doing a piece for Ramparts on Bertrand Russell (the 94-year-old British philosopher who plans a Viet Nam 'war crimes trial' of President Johnson) so I just went to Prague to check the international implications of our article on the NSA.

"We don't truck with communism at Ramparts," Scheer went on voluntarily. "We compare the U.S. position in Viet Nam with the actions of the Soviet Union in Hungary. Both are intolerable, and we make no bones about it.

"Any attempt to smear us at Ramparts is libelous, and we'll sue. I warned the same thing when there were mutterings about me being a Communist when I ran for Congress."

I report this not to throw a smoke screen over the revelations about the CIA. Ramparts' politics, foreign contacts, financial support or motives do not alter the rightness or wrongness of CIA's involvement in scores of American organizations.

I report it because Scheer's mission to Prague illustrates the hideous degree of guilt any association that permeates the furor over the CIA and the various foundations and organizations that have been labeled "CIA links."

No matter how fragile those "links" may have been, many Americans are disposed to think of the groups as "tained." They are presumed to have bartered away their integrity for lucre from what, strangly, has come to be regarded as a "dirty" organization, "untouchable" by normal Americans.

Well, I'm not prepared to assume that the people who run "Crossroads Africa" lost their integrity, or that the American Newspaper Guild "compromised the integrity of journalists" because they got money from foundations with CIA ties.

And until proof of something else is presented, I have to assume the Scheer went to Prague on a journalistic mission.

But Scheer and Ramparts have intensified America's mood of suspicion. Before the suspicion fades, Ramparts may find it desirable to reveal who has provided the estimated million and a half dollars the magazine will have lost by the end of this year. And Scheer may have more to say about his mission to Prague.

That might lay to rest the rumors that Ramparts is not only a muckraker, but a muckraker with a malevolent motive.

Crime War First Business of Congress

EXTENSION OF REMARKS
OF
HON. JAMES C. CORMAN
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, March 6, 1967

Mr. CORMAN. Mr. Speaker, the safe streets and crime control measure submitted by the administration has great meaning for every citizen in every corner of our land. It proposes to deal with the crime problem now, and to eliminate many of the causes of crime.

The proposal on firearms would keep weapons out of the hands of lunatics and criminals without curtailing the rights of sportsmen. Where sound controls exist, the number of deaths drop sharply.

New laws also are sought in the struggle against organized crime. And this fight must be won. The administration has properly called for greater cooperation between the Federal Government and State and local governments. This cooperation is essential if organized crime is to be reduced.

Sound legislation is proposed for another right—the right to privacy. It seems proper that electronic eavesdropping would be allowed only in cases of national security.

Citizens everywhere are responding warmly to these and other anticrime measures. The Los Angeles Times recently commented editorially on some of the bills. It is an excellent summary, and I bring it to the attention of the House:

FIRST BUSINESS OF GOVERNMENT

"We can control crime if we will," declared President Johnson as he asked Congress to provide new ways in which to combat lawlessness and violence.

The legislative means the President seeks are important, but they can be employed effectively only if strong leadership and cooperation exist at all levels of government. At the federal level the impetus for an all-out fight against crime, organized and unorganized, must come from the White House.

"Public order," as Mr. Johnson told Congress, "is the first business of government."

The two most significant new laws proposed by the President dealt with public order and the right of privacy.

At last, a forthright, comprehensive law prohibiting wiretapping and electronic eavesdropping has been offered. The President would not only ban all wiretapping "public and private," but also all "willful invasions of privacy by electronic devices."

"The only exceptions," he said, "would cover those instances where the security of the nation itself are at stake—and then only under the strictest safeguards."

Such legislation is urgently needed to prevent the use of such devices by private persons and their abuse by public officials and officers. Manufacture or distribution of the devices would be prohibited by those engaged in interstate commerce, thus creating the need for supplementary bans within each state.

The only apparent weakness in the President's proposal is the lack of definition of the national security exception or of the "safeguards" to be imposed.

To help assure public order, Mr. Johnson proposed gun control laws even stronger than those in last year's message.

Pressure from gun-owner and gun-manufacturer lobbies thus far have stalled any meaningful legislation in Congress, but the President declared that "any further delay is unconscionable."

The Times agrees, and urges that Congress and the state legislatures consider even stronger laws, including the registration of all firearms.

Mr. Johnson's suggestion that new federal grants—at least $50 million—be given to states and cities to assist in new law enforcement efforts seems worthy of consideration. More details, however, are needed as to procedure and cost.

Other legislative proposals by the President should be forthcoming when the report and recommendations of his National Crime Commission are made public.

Finally, Mr. Johnson urged greater efforts to root out organized crime. He proposed new laws to prevent coercion of witnesses in federal investigations and to extend federal immunity provisions.

The investigation and suppression of organized crime, however, demands stronger leadership even more than stronger laws. Greater cooperation among the many federal agencies involved as well as with the state and local agencies is absolutely essential.

The challenge of crime so forcefully described by Mr. Johnson, therefore, demands action by the administration as well as by Congress if streets are to be safe and homes secure.

The Case for Higher Social Security Benefits

EXTENSION OF REMARKS
OF
HON. ABRAHAM J. MULTER
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, March 6, 1967

Mr. MULTER. Mr. Speaker, the Ways and Means Committee is now considering an increase in social security benefits. Ever since I came to the House in 1947, I have worked for and voted for every increase in benefits for those who have retired under the social security system. It is a good system, one that provides much needed income for those who do not belong to other governmental or private retirement programs.

It has been apparent for a long time, however, that the social security laws need revision; not only do these senior citizens need an increase in the monthly social security check, but they also need certain eligibility changes in the law. An excellent appraisal of some of the changes is contained in the following article from the RWDSU Record of February 5, 1967, a publication of the Retail, Wholesale, and Department Store Union.

The article follows:

THE CASE FOR HIGHER SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS

(By Bert Seidman, director, AFL-CIO Department of Social Security)

Almost 22 million Americans are receiving social security cash benefits each month under the Old Age, Survivors and Disability Insurance system. Medicare, a health program for the elderly, went into effect last year, marking a significant social advance and the culmination of years of struggle.

The system at the present time pays out more than $1.5 billion in cash benefits each month to these 22 million people and medical benefits to more than 19 million. When the law was enacted, it provided only retirement benefits for workers. Today, it provides retirement benefits to 14.7 million workers and their dependents, survivors' benefits to 5.3 million widows and orphans, disability benefits to nearly 2 million disabled workers and their dependents and medicare benefits to almost all retired persons over 65, regardless of their eligibility for social security cash benefits.

The fight to secure health insurance protection for senior citizens postponed many essential changes in the overall program. Now the time has come to turn attention to the unfinished work of modernizing and improving the social security system so older Americans can live out their retirement years in dignity and self-respect and not in poverty and despair.

The Social Security Administration estimates that about 5 million persons age 65 and over are living in poverty and another 5.5 million are kept out of poverty by their social security benefits. In June 1966, the

Approved For Release 2004/02/10 : CIA-RDP75-00149R000500370018-1